

# Tips *and* Trips



The Georgia Mineral Society

\*Atlanta, Georgia\* Volume XXXIV/Eleven November 2005

## President's Message

Once again, I stand before you as President.

And, as in the past I will try my best to serve the members of the society.



We are the largest mineral society in the country.

We are also one of the oldest and most active.

With our sections, we are essentially six clubs.

Beginning this fiscal year, most of the positions have been filled.

However, there are two positions in which we need assistance.

George Libby has improved greatly, but it will be some time before he can resume his full duties as Field Trip Chair. George has information which will be helpful for someone to use until his full recovery. Field trips are a very important part of a mineral society. There are many people who join a society for the sole purpose of attending these trips. It helps to have the DMC trips, but we still need our own. The Chattanooga Geology Club has invited us to attend their field trip in November. We still need other trips during the year.

The other position in need is our Junior Section. Roxanne Lopez has done a fantastic job with our young people. She will be teaching school in China for many months. We need someone to fill in until her return. Under normal conditions, a junior will be active and enthusiastic to learn. As they mature they will tend to get side tracked in other directions - girls, boys, cars, marriage, family... But, when we get them young, we have planted a seed. Later in life they will often return to become active members.

I ask for someone to please come forward to help with both of these positions.

After tonight, the first thing that I wish to see accomplished is the completion of the bylaw revisions. These are minor changes and can be completed without much further effort. The other thing is locating a home. This has been ongoing for many years. I feel that we need to define exactly what we need and what we can afford to pay out. There are several possibilities in the area in which we are looking. As I said, this has been an ongoing effort and it could very well not be achieved during my term. I do, however, wish to see further progress. I am sure that GMS will continue to educate as we have in the past. The Georgia Mineral Society is now in its 70<sup>th</sup> year. I believe that our founders would be proud of how far we have come. I look forward to working with you in this next year.

Thank you,  
**Kim Cochran, President**



**Kim delivers his incoming President's Message to the crowd at the GMS October Banquet.**  
(photo courtesy of Peyton Waggener)



**The Georgia Mineral Society, Inc.**  
**A Non-Profit Educational Organization**  
**Seventy Years of Tradition**  
**Objective and Purpose**  
**To Educate the Youth of the State**  
**and the Members of this Society**  
**In the Field of Earth Science**



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Adopt-A-Highway		
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Curator/Gem Box	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Facilities	Open to Volunteers	
Historian	Roxanne Lopez	770.436.0387
Hospitality	Margaret Ronan	404.636.0720
Librarian	Julian C. Gray	770.888.9331
Parliamentarian	Joan White	770.478.5734
Refreshments	Kim Prakash & Nancy Marden	770.879.0476 770.447.8542
Special Events	Bill Waggener	770.478.5734
Sunshine	Barbara Libby	770.978.2117
Tips & Trips Labels	Joan White	770.478.5734
SFMS Rep.	Frank Decaminada	770.992.8309

**The article submittal due date for the December 2005 newsletter is November 10, 2005.**

**GENERAL MEETINGS**  
 General meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. In the event that the first Monday is a holiday and/or the facilities are not available, the meeting will be held on the third Monday of the month. General meetings are currently held at the Chamblee Branch of the DeKalb County Library System. Any deviations from the above schedule will be announced in Tips and Trips.

**The Georgia Mineral Society on the Internet:**  
<http://www.gaminerol.org>  
 E-mail Early Notification Program: A field trip and club news update service. To join, members are requested to send in their current e-mail address to:  
[gms@gaminerol.org](mailto:gms@gaminerol.org)

**December Show Committee Chairs**

Show Chair	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Dealer Chair	Anita Westlake	404.761.7849
Exhibits	Jay Gorday	770.986.0822
Demonstrations	Margaret Ronan	404.636.0720
Hospitality	Nancy Marden	770.447.8542
Treasurer	Teresa Curl	770.751.7313
Advertising	Perry & Teresa Curl	706.764.2291
Dealer Dinner	Joan White	770.478.5734
Database	Joan White	770.478.5734
Auction	Kim Cochran	770.979.8331
Set Up/Take Down	Open to Volunteers	

**November General Meeting**  
7:30 PM, Monday, November 7th, 2005  
Chamblee Library  
4114 Clairmont Road  
770-936-1380

**Georgiaites - Georgia Tektites**

Hal Povenmire, author of the book, Fireballs, Meteors and Meteorites, will be speaking to us about his scientific research into Georgia tektites or Georgiaites.

Georgiaites (Georgia tektites) are light green, translucent, natural glass, of contested origin. They range in size from a BB to a walnut and are found across middle and east Georgia. There are only ten other places on earth where they have been found, Australia, Europe, and Russia are the most famous areas. Although most of the 1,200 existing specimens of Georgiaites have turned up in Dodge and Bleckley counties, they are believed to exist in Burke, Jenkins, Screven and Jefferson counties also.

According to <http://www.meteorite.com>, the two prevailing scientific theories leave unanswered questions about how the glass itself was made:

The asteroid that hit the earth in the Chesapeake Bay, ~32.5 million years ago, sent liquefied or vaporized soil and rock debris into space, which then fell back to earth.

Bits of solidified material were thrown into space by lunar volcanoes. Eventually captured by Earth's gravity and strewn across various regions of the Earth. (During the Apollo Missions, volcanic glass, attributed to past lunar volcanic eruptions, was found on the lunar surface.)

Mr. Hal Povenmire, a Florida scientist, has studied tektites since 1970, when he was a project engineer for NASA. Since then, he has made numerous trips to Georgia to authenticate reports of new finds and continue his research into their creation.

Some web links to research:  
<http://www.spacedaily.com/news/deepimpact-02k.html>  
[http://www.planetary.org/news/2004/chesapeake\\_0902.html](http://www.planetary.org/news/2004/chesapeake_0902.html)

So please join us for an informative night on one of the possible origins of Georgia Tektites.

Show & Tell – If anyone has a Georgiайте, a tektite from elsewhere, or other “space debris”, we would all love to see them!

Looking Ahead:  
December – Holiday Party  
December show

**Dylan Porter –VP/Programs**



From website:  
<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-2864>

**Large Georgiайте**

One of the largest tektites (or natural glasses) to be found in Georgia, this georgiайте was discovered in Dodge County in 2003. The glass is illuminated from behind to emphasize its translucent nature.

Photographs by Edward Albin



**Georgiaites**

Georgiaites are natural glasses formed by the melting of the earth's crust upon impact by an asteroid or meteorite. Many scientists believe that georgiaites were formed as a result of the meteorite impact that created the Chesapeake Bay Crater in Virginia around 35 million years ago.

November 2005

The Georgia Mineral Society

**October 3, 2005  
GMS Banquet Meeting Minutes**



The meeting was called to order at 8:09 PM by President Doug Daniels at the Fire Mountain Restaurant, following the annual banquet. 34 members were present; no new members or visitors attended.

**Doug Daniels** – recognized past Presidents in attendance (Kim Cochran, LeRoy Brown, Frank Decaminada, Anita Westlake, Bill Waggener, and Joan White).

**Mary Porter - Secretary** – minutes from September meeting available. Bill Waggener motioned to dispense with reading of minutes, seconded by Sue Gorday, motion was passed.

**Teresa Curl – Treasurer** – not present, no report available.

**Doug Daniels** – gave annual President's report outlining GMS's accomplishments within the past year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Kim Cochran** – the December show committee needs to have a meeting. A date was set for October 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM at Kim's house.

**Jay Gorday** – announced shed painting/lunch/auction at Kim's on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM. Kim stressed the auction is only for those who participate in painting or help with lunch.

**AWARDS (8:20)** – Joan White presented awards.

**Special Recognition** – Kim Cochran, Anita Westlake, Jeannette and Olin Banks, Jay Gorday, Bill Waggener, Martha Brown

**Certificate of Appreciation** – Carolyn Daniels, Julian Gray, Dave Babulski

**Gold Nugget** – Nancy Marden, Kim Prakash, Mary Porter, Sue Gorday, Margaret Ronan, John Trimble

**Member of the Year** – Jeanette Banks – GMS will donate \$100.00 to the Mayo Foundation in her name.

Bill Waggener (Special Events) presented Doug Daniels (Outgoing President) with a specimen of orpiment crystals.

**SHOW CHAIR GIFTS**

Martha Brown (May Dealer Chair) presented Jay Gorday (May Show Chair) with several mineral specimens including anatase, witherite, hematite, and topaz. Jay presented Martha with two meteorites and a specimen of petrified wood.

Kim Cochran (December Show Chair) presented Anita Westlake (December Dealer Chair) with a meteorite. Anita presented Kim with fossils specimens including a Pterodactyl cast replica.



*The 2005 - 2006 Board take their oath of office.  
(photo courtesy of Peyton Waggener)*

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS (8:44)**

Joan White swore in the following officers:

Kim Cochran – President, Gem Section Chair

Lizabeth McClain – Executive Vice President, Membership

Dylan Porter – Vice President, Programs

Mary Porter – Secretary

Julian Gray – Mineral Section Chair

Dave Babulski – Micro-Mount Section Chair

Anita Westlake – Education Chair

Roxanne Lopez – Junior Section Chair

Joan White - Trustee to 2008

**INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Doug passed the GMS gavel to Kim, who delivered his speech as incoming president.

**DOOR PRIZES** - door prizes numbers were awarded to those with a zero filled in on their program.

A motion was made to adjourn meeting at 8:53PM. It was seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Mary Porter,  
Secretary**

*The scene as the Board is called forward.  
(photo courtesy of Peyton Waggener)*



**Banquet Photos**  
(courtesy of Peyton Waggener)



**Jeannette Banks receives the award for Member of the Year from Joan White.**



**Left: Doug Daniels shows the crowd his President's gift.**

**Outgoing President's Message**

Well, another year has passed in the evolution of the Georgia Mineral Society. Oh, sorry, as a geologist, I shouldn't use

be using that word, "evolution." Anyway, this is the time we gather to recognize the opportunities for, and accomplishments of, GMS and its members over the past year.

As a Society, we have been provided a number of opportunities which we have taken part in. We started early on with the Peachtree Elementary Science Night. We had members devise a devious test for the State Competition of the Georgia Science Olympiad. This was followed by the Georgia State Teachers Association meeting in Columbus. GMS participated in Earth Day activities at both the Fernbank Museum, and at Zoo Atlanta. We provided mini-grants to deserving teachers (one of whom was one of our own). Somehow, I know I've missed some other events that GMS participated in this year.

Individual members also responded to opportunities (makes us sound like the Ferengy of Star Trek.....). Members spoke to diverse groups, such as scout groups, schools, civic clubs, other societies, and so on. Our education chair continues to seek members willing to speak to various groups. More about this later.

Some members have shone a bit like a nova. Presenting papers at the Georgia Academy of Sciences meeting, as the only non-student/academic presenter. Being accepted into a worldwide nature artists group (as the only member doing mineral-related art). And, showing an exhibit of mineral art at a well-known mineral museum (I think the museum was nearby), beginning just last month. [Dave Babulski, ed.] Another, presenting papers at the SFMS banquet; presenting papers at various symposia about the country; working on a Ph. D. while doing all this, whilst holding offices within GMS. [Julian Gray, ed.] I don't recall their names.

We even had a possible property show up, for use as our combined clubhouse/shop/storage. It was located in a "good" location, relative to our current membership base. It was more than big enough. And that was the key.....a bit large.....a bit out of our price range.... Yet, a member saw the opportunity, brought it up to the Board, and the Board looked at it. We'd like a few more to evaluate. Please, members, keep your eyes open for potential locations.

The highlight of this past year, in my opinion, was our hosting of the SFMS Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with our December 2004 show. The show was well received by all, by all accounts we heard. Dealers were pleased. Attendees were pleased. We had our first judged competition in a while....may that idea continue. To be sure, the accolades for that show do not go to me, as President; I just happened to be there by default. The real accolades go to two groups: the December show group, headed by Kim Cochran; and the SFMS show group, consisting of Joan White, Olin & Jeanette Banks, and Carolyn Daniels. And, if I left any names out of any of those two groups, my apologies. You all made GMS shine. Thanks to all who helped.

Let's start wrapping this up. Are our members professionals? A few are, to be sure. But, the majority are not. Yet, they can speak with the authority of many a professional (well, to a degree). The amateur can still be a great voice in this era of ignorance of science. After all, if the amateurs, who are not necessarily scientifically trained, can grasp the ideas, then the rest of the public can get it too. And that is our purpose.....to teach.....not just the youth, but all ages.

Thanks for allowing me to be your President this year, and thanks for everyone's help (no matter how insignificant you think your help was). Please don't hesitate to help if asked to help this year. Remember, if you have even half an interest in this hobby, you know more than the "average bear". Don't be afraid to share your knowledge. You know something of the hobby, you have the resources within GMS to help, you can do it. We need more "smart bears" disseminating the knowledge.

**Doug Daniels**  
**GMS President, 2004-2005**

### Gone Fishing

In 1988 I took two of my boys, Sam and John, to Colorado and Wyoming to see the sights. The second night we ended up at a "pay to dig" fossil fish quarry within the Green River Formation, south of Kemmerer, Wyoming. There, we met Roger Van Cleef, who would become a great friend over the years. He was Program Director at the Pink Palace Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. He taught us the basics of splitting rock to recover fossil fish.

Later in the evening, we were pitching our tent when John mentioned to Roger that breakfast the next morning would consist of fried eggs and Spam. Roger, to our great surprise, replied that he too was a Spam connoisseur and in fact he had 243 recipes for Spam! My boys, to this day, remember that comment!

Over the next ten years, I went to Kemmerer, Wyoming every summer to collect fossil fish. I had become good friends with Rick and Gael Hebdon, owners of Warfield Fossil Quarries, who extended to me their hospitality and were generous enough to let me dig in their commercial quarry where the best preserved fish are found. At least 90% of the quality fish fossils seen in gift shops and shows are from this quarry.

There are two types of fish found in the Fossil Lake of the Green River Formation. They are the split-fish layer and the 18-inch layer fish. The split-fish layer is approximately 6 1/2 feet thick. There are several layers in this group which indicate the 50 million year old lake expanded and contracted over time.

The layers are pried apart with a crow bar and then split even more with chisels and a rock hammer. The technique is to take, for example, a four inch piece and split it into two pieces, then split the remaining pieces again until they cannot be split any more. It is exciting when a fish is split out and you remind yourself that this is the first time that this fish has seen daylight in fifty (50) million years.

The 18-inch layer represents basically the bottom of this deep ancient lake. Whereas the split-fish layer is creamy white, the 18-inch layer is slate gray and much harder.

The technique to recover these fish is to bulldoze the overburden to about 4 - 6 inches above the thin gray oil shale unit that caps the 18-inch layer. The layer above is removed by shovel, then the oil shale layer, which is tough and hard, must be broken up with sledge hammers. This is carried away with shovels or a light bulldozer, then it is literally swept off. What remains reminds me of the smooth concrete floor of my basement.

Now the fun begins. We look for ridges which can most easily be seen in the early morning or late afternoon sunlight indicating fish fossil vertebrae. The area around

the fossil is squared off and then cut by a saw. The square is then pried up with thick pry-bars and now we have our fish. Isn't fishing fun?

*Harry Yingst*



Scientific Name: *Phareodus testis*

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

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**From Website:**

<http://www.wmnh.com/wmvf0001.htm>  
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## FOSSIL SAFARI

**Dig your own Fossil Fish at Warfield Springs Quarries!**